

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LEON VALLEY, TEXAS, APRIL 9, 2008

The City Council of the City of Leon Valley, Texas, met for a Special City Council Meeting on the 9th day of April 2008 at 1:30 p.m., at the Leon Valley City Conference Room, at 6400 El Verde Road, Leon Valley, Texas, for the purpose of the following business, to-wit:

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING - 1:30 P.M.

Call to order.

Mayor Riley called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. and asked that the minutes reflect that the following members of Council were present: Reyna, Baldrige, and Dean.

Others Present:

Northwest Vista College President, Dr. Jackie Claunch
Northside Independent School District's Continuing Education Director, Lydia Martinez
Business Alliance Committee Members Mke McCarley, Al Baldrige, and Rudy Garcia
City Manager Lanny Lambert and City Secretary Feutz

Discussion with education and community officials on education initiatives for Leon Valley.

Mayor Riley presented an overview to the group on the history of steps taken so far to meet with Alamo Community College District Chancellor Leslie and Northwest Vista College President Dr. Claunch to work towards bringing a learning center to Leon Valley that would meet the needs of residents and businesses in the surrounding area for technical training and college credit courses.

City Manager Lambert explained that the City's Business Alliance Committee had surveyed over 200 businesses to identify the education needs of the area's business community. He described the top two needs identified as being business management and customer service training and coursework.

Ms. Martinez stated that there was already is a good working relationship between the ACCD and NISD and that existing school buildings were being used to provide courses for adults throughout the year with the continuing education department of NISD. Ms. Martinez stated that NISD does not offer any college credit courses, but several continuing education courses do provide certification programs.

Dr. Claunch posed the challenge of putting together the information on existing courses that seem to meet the training requested by businesses and which are being offered by NISD and ACCD. She explained that there are grants that could be pursued through various sources, including the workforce commission, that would allow customized education programs to be brought to local businesses if there were enough students for the course. She suggested that a consortium of companies may to be involved in such an effort and they must also recognize that the students will come for the education if they see the reward for them to obtain the higher level of education

Mr. Lambert asked if there were any plans for a westside education center in or near Leon

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Valley and stated that although the City has two meeting centers, they already are being used or rented a high percentage of the time.

Dr. Claunch stated that the Incarnate Word College already has an education center in the area and she stated that NW Vista College offers courses at the center on Datapoint Drive. She stated that the challenge would be to ascertain a need and an interested audience before the financial backing was sought for another or different education center that would service an area so close to the Datapoint Drive center.

Group discussion presented possibilities for remedial college courses for students entering college or adults returning to college, math and engineering coursework that could be offered locally, where an educational center could be located in Leon Valley, whether students would more likely attend these courses at an NISD facility or at a college campus, and who is the targeted audience of this education effort.

Ms. Martinez reminded the group that adult education courses with NISD can be customized to meet business owners' needs and can be taken to their business site. Dr. Claunch stated that partnerships with educational institutions and cities need educational institutions to provide the instructors and run the facility and the city would usually provide a facility for the education center.

Business Alliance Committee members expressed the concerns that had been relayed to them from local businesses that having a local education center to support business education needs will help the businesses already here, but will also draw other businesses and their employees to Leon Valley.

Group discussion continued on what the next steps would be to continue to identify the needs of the area for continuing education and the common thread that will pull the audience and education needs together. It was suggested that assistance be sought from the workforce development offices, local businesses, the City of Leon Valley, and the education offices. Also suggested was a resolution from the City to provide emphasis on the need for an additional education center in Leon Valley and for the City's website to provide a link to NISD. Questions reiterated by the group before closing the meeting concerned what meets the educational needs of the greater community and does it warrant its own educational facility and financial assistance to support additional educational facilities.

Adjourn.

Mayor Riley thanked everyone for coming together and for the continuing dialog about education. Hearing no further business, a motion was made by Councilmember Dean, seconded by Councilmember Baldrige, to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no objections, Mayor Riley announced the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

Marie Feutz

City Secretary

Chris Riley

Mayor

Approved by Council majority vote at the Regular City Council Meeting of May 6, 2008